**Aztec Mosaic**

1. Students will be read the history of Aztec people.

2. Have the students look on a map and identify the areas of Aztec culture.

3. Have students go to the website below to look at samples of Aztec art. (**Mosaic** is the art of creating images with an assemblage of small pieces of colored glass, stone, or other materials.)

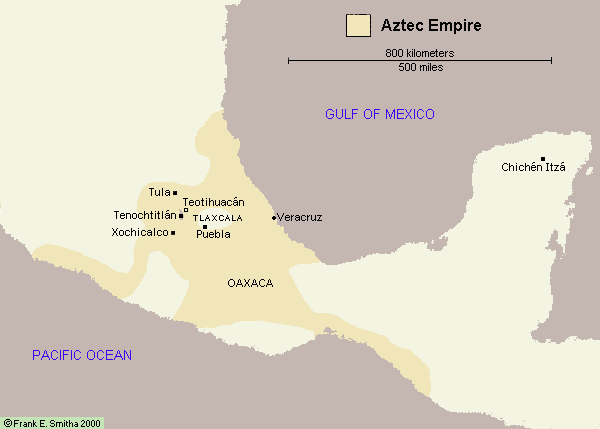
4. Copy a few pages from the Coloring book and have the students color a mosaic.

5. Write their name on the back of the mosaic and write Aztec on the back as well.

The **Aztec** people were certain ethnic groups of central Mexico, particularly those groups who spoke the Nahuatl language and who dominated large parts of Mesoamerica in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries.

The Aztec Empire was peopled by a group that was once nomadic, the Mexicas.  Their chroniclers told them that after their long journey from Aztlán, they found themselves to be outcasts, until they found the sign sent to them by their god Huitzilopochtli, and began to build their city.  And so the Mexica peoples continued, and the Aztec Empire began.  
  
The city of Tenochitlan was soon to become one of the largest cities in the world.  The power of the Mexica peoples became more consolidated, and they began to form alliances.  Their military power grew as well, and they began to conquer peoples in the surrounding areas

At its pinnacle Aztec culture had rich and complex mythological and religious traditions, as well as reaching remarkable architectural and artistic accomplishments.

In 1521, in what is probably the most widely known episode in the Spanish colonization of the Americas, Hernán Cortés, conquered Tenochtitlan and defeated the Aztec Triple Alliance under the leadership of Moctezuma II; In the series of events often referred to as "The Fall of the Aztec Empire". Subsequently the Spanish founded the new settlement of Mexico City on the site of the ruined Aztec capital.